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CHC 71-05-64
7 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Security Review of Congressional Hearing

1. On 7 January 1971 I attended a meeting in the office of Mr. Arnold Nachmanoff, the senior NSC staffer on Latin America, to review transcripts of two hearings before the House Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs regarding Soviet military activities in Cuba. The objective was to comply with a Presidential directive (through Dr. Kissinger) to sanitize the testimony so that the subcommittee can release it publicly. Others in attendance included Hal Sonnenfeldt of the NSC Staff, Col. R. J. Monahan of DOD, [REDACTED] and two State representatives.

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2. The first transcript contained testimony of U. Alexis Johnson dealing primarily with the "understandings" between the US and the Soviet Union regarding Soviet military activities in Cuba. Mr. Nachmanoff announced at the beginning that he had just received a new Presidential directive forbidding any more releases on the "understandings" other than to refer to the President's recent statement on television. The deletions necessary to follow this policy would virtually wipe out Undersecretary Johnson's testimony, so it was agreed that the State reps would ask the Undersecretary to call the subcommittee's chairman, Representative Fascell, and request that he drop the idea of releasing any of this testimony.

3. The second transcript contained testimony by several DIA representatives who summarized the intelligence regarding Soviet naval activity and construction in Cienfuegos. Mr. Nachmanoff said he hoped that we could be as liberal as possible in reviewing the text from a security viewpoint to help counterbalance any displeasure the subcommittee might feel about being asked to withhold Undersecretary Johnson's testimony. In fact, there were very few portions that had any sensitivity from the standpoint of protecting intelligence sources

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and methods. Most of the information was based on U-2 photography (which has been openly acknowledged) and overt naval surveillance. There was one reference to Cuban refugee sources, but this turned out to be based on press reporting. The most sensitive aspect of the analysis on Cienfuegos is [redacted]

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[redacted] but the testimony did not go into detail on this. We did make several deletions, however, as we went through the lengthy text page by page. I recommended deletion of about two pages dealing with the dissemination of intelligence to the White House and senior officials--mainly on the grounds that the discussion was confusing and potentially misleading.

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[redacted]
Deputy Chief, Regional Analysis Division

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